

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and
Petty-Statesmen, of all Sides.

Tuesday, January 9. 1705.

THE Power of *French* Influence on our Trade in Times of Peace, has not been so much, but their Influence on it in Time of War, has been greater——And here opens a Terrible Scene——The sad Depredation made upon us in Trade, by their Privateers, in the beginning of the last War, has left a Black Mark on the Estates of many Ruin'd, but then Flourishing Families.

Nor do I speak that more sensibly in this Case, for the share I have had in the Misfortune; tho' I had the Honour, Disaster, or what else you will please to call it, of losing the first Ship that was taken upon the Breach of the last War, and before it was declar'd.

But the Casualty was so general, that he that was not affected with it, must be very Insensible of the Circumstances of his Native Country. By this unaccountable Havock they made of our Ships, all Foreign Trade felt a general Shock, and it was two or three Years before we knew which way to turn our selves in Trade; nothing could go to Sea almost, but it fell into the Enemies Hands; the Seas were covered with their Privateers; and in the first three Years of the War, they took by the lowest Computation of those who very well understood the Matter, above 2000 Sail of our Ships.

As *England* is a Trading Country, and full of Shipping in all parts of the Coast, no Corner

Escap'd them; *Scotland* fitted out a Fleet, like the Armadilla's of *New-Spain*, of 2 Sail, both which were taken; so that the whole *Scotch* Navy fell into their Hands. *New-England* suffered so deeply, that hardly any thing they had at Sea, Escap'd them; and the little Town of *Salem*, near *Boston*, which usually sent out 100 Sail of Fishing-Ketches, was, as I have been informed, reduc'd to 7 Sail; our *West-India*, our *East-India*, *Guinea*, *Turkey*, *Italian* and *Cole* Trade, all felt the Shock——Ships were so cheap in *France*, that they lay up by the Wall, as the Sailors call it, and perish'd for want of using; and our Merchants frequently rebought several Ships from them, for half their Worth; as the *Bedford* and *India Man*, for Instance——From hence came the Custom of Ransoming Ships at Sea; the meaning was, that taking a Ship loaden with any mean, bulky Commodity, and it not being worth while to carry her Home, it was better to take a quarter of her Worth, and let her go, than to carry her Home, where they knew they could not sell her.

This fell chiefly among the Colliers, for Coals were as cheap in *Dunkirk*, as at *London*, and no use for them, the Ships generally good for little; so it was much better to take a Sum of Money, than be at the Charge of Manning their Prizes, and sending them Home, where

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neither

neither the Vessel, nor the Coles, amounted to enough to make it worth while.

The Multitude of Prizes they took from us, were Infinite Advantages to them: 'tis a black Account, and too melancholy to ravel into the Particulars.

1. The Ruine of our Merchants, the Number of which, upon the first Rapture, was so great, that the House of Commons pass'd a Bill to give certain Merchants Ensurers, a limited Time to make up with, and satisfie their Creditors; but the Bill was afterwards rejected in the House of Lords, for Reasons too long to insert here.

2. The General Interruption of our Trade, especially to our *American Colonies*, some of which lost almost all the Ships belonging to them, and *New-England* had a deep share in it.

3. The Enriching the *French Merchants*, and in general, all their Coasts, by the Plunder of our Trade; and thereby Encouraging them to fit out a yet greater Number of Privateers, and so the Evil tended still to the Increase of it self.

How long this Miserable Trade proceeded, I need not repeat; and in what Streight the City of *London* was frequently in for Coles, is known to all that have any Memory in those Affairs.

The last and worst Article of all, was the Disgrace it brought upon our General Conduct, and the Contempt it put upon our Naval Affairs, which opened the Mouth both of Friend and Foe Abroad and at Home: Our Merchants repin'd, our Mob Rav'd, our *Jacobites* Gloried, the *French* Insulted our Coast, our mismanag'd *Mary* lay by, our Cruisers did little or nothing, and to this pass was our Trade reduc'd.

This made Seamen's Wages high, Freight high, Insurances high, and all Foreign Goods in proportion.

That this began to be a little better manag'd towards the end of the last War, is true, and in time we should have brought our Trade to a better Decoration: But the Blow was struck early, our Enemies were Enrich'd, and we Impoverish'd in the first of the Day, and we never recover'd the Blow.

The Value of Ships and Goods taken in this Time is Incredible; and if I should say, the loss of Trade suffered at Sea, amounted to one third as much as all the Charge of that War, I should under-rate it, if it be true, that in those 22 Years, we lost about 30 Millions Sterling, as

some have computed it, and pretend to under-rate it too.

At the beginning of this last War, we seem'd to have a new face of Management upon our Naval Affairs; and for the first Year, or two, we lost but few Ships, our Diligent Frigates pick'd up abundance of *French Privateers*; and in proportion to the Number of Ships they have abroad, a great many of their Merchants; and I was told, we had at once 5000 of their Seamen in our Prisons.

This Unusual Face of our Affairs, puts new Life into our Trade, and our Merchants obtaining Regular Convoys, and regularly attending those Convoys, our Losses were small.

It was immediately visible in the Countenance of the *French*, the ill Success of their Privateers, so many being taken, more coming Home again without Purchase, the Adventurers were discourag'd, a great many of them broke at *Rechoi* and *St. Maloes*, and our Seas were not so pester'd with them, as usual. Nay, tho' by this New War, *Spain* being our Enemies, we have three sorts of Rovers to deal with, more than we had before, viz. of *Ostend*, *Biscay* and *Majorca*; yet the Losses we felt at Sea were inconsiderable, and People began to bless the Publick Management, and the Queen, by whose Special Influence, it was suppos'd, this Blessing attended us.

Had our Trade continued as secure from Pyracies, as it did the two last Years of the last War, and the two first Years of this, 'tis no difficult Task to make it out, that this Nation would grow Rich with a War with *France*; and there are not a few Reasons to make it out. 'Tis *Spain* which is the only heavy Article in the present War, as to Trade; the full Point put upon the Article of our Manufactures, by the Prohibition there, being a great loss to us.

And it is no improbable thing, as is very well Remark'd by the Author of the *Observator Reform'd*, that in time, *Spain* may be so Influenced by *France*, as to bring them to use their slight Manufactures, instead of our solid ones; by the same Rule as our People by Custom and Management, are brought off from the use of *French Wines* to *Portugal*.

The Consequence of such an Alteration, would be very fatal to *England*, and give a great Blow to our Trade, and is not the least Reason, why it behoves us to make more haste with the *Portuguese War*: But of this by it self.

A D V I C E from the Scandal. C L U B.

WE must be pardon'd, if we do not Answer the following Gentleman so seriously as he seems to desire; since those Gentlemen, who seem to tell us, they love against their Sense, must have something else to move them, which is discovered to us in no other Terms than our Answer expresses.

S I R,

THOU a Stranger, I trouble you with these Lines; if you think 'em worth Printing, I should be glad to see 'em in one of your Reviews. The Case is real, and therefore upon stronger Reasons, demands your Answer: I know it will be of singular use to the Party concern'd, and shall be acknowledg'd as an Obligation upon one who was always an Admirer of your Works: And is
Decemb. 23. Your humble Servant,

1704.

L. Y.

Tell me, ye Learned Club, who seem to be Patrons of Wit and Ingenuity; In whose Learn'd Breasts Apollo's Arts do dwell, And in soft Cupid's Myrtick Power excel; Tell me a Remedy, if ought ye know, To cure a Love-sick Mind, direct me *HOW*. Plagu'd with the Torments of an Anxious Breast,

My Mind's all ruff'd and depriv'd of Rest; Sometimes I burn with Ardent Flames of Fire, Scorch'd with the Heat of my own vain Desire; Sometimes my Blood with a cold Damp is chill'd, And always with Anxieties I'm fill'd: Thus with alternate Paroxysms I rage, And find no Drugs that can my Mind assuage; Yet my fond Soul, still hugs the wounding Steek, And when I seem to Die, I love the Pangs I feel.

S I R,

Your speedy Answer would give me some ease.

You that to our weak Seale apply,
To cure the Man that's first Enclin'd to Die,
Listen the Grave Refute; You'll never fail,
To cure the Head, if first you cure the Tail.
All Men may then their own Physicians prove,
Remove the Lust, and that removes the Love.

THis Mysterious Poet seems to allude to the Old Irish Oracle of St. Patrick, which they us'd to tell, was heard to say somewhat, but no Body knew what: If then the Gentleman

please to pursue his Vein of Dark Poetry, perhaps, his Muse may come at last to speak English, and then we may understand her.

Dread English Hamon, thro' whose Mouth of Wood,

*The Stygian Fashion's Mind is understood;
Receive the Hellish Crew within thy Breast,
Swell, Sweat; and Fume, and then the Truth suggest.*

But as the Gentleman seems tired with his own Poetry, the Allegorick Meaning, if it mean any thing, being very abstruse, behold he becomes more intelligible in Prose.

S I R,

BEING very willing to believe, you writ several things problematically, of set purpose, to puzzle common Capacities; I therefore make it my Request, to be Inform'd, how you Reconcile these following Sentences, in your Review of Decemb. 23. touching the English Manufactures: 'This Scoundrel Trade has got the start of Thieving: I amperswaded no Man ever takes the Highway, &c. where you seem to make no manner of Distinction between Thieving and Robbing: And lower down you say, 'You can't believe, it was ever yet known, that any Man ever follow'd the Highway, that could live without it: But the Beau's Barber Executed the other Day, and a thousand other undeniable Examples of that kind, suspend the Faith; I shou'd otherwise gladly allow your Oraculous Assertions. Wherefore, if you'll rid me of my Doubts herein, I'll cheerfully become,

Wednesday,

S I R,

Novemb. 27.

Your Admirer,

1704.

B. F. G.

As to a Difference between Thieving and Robbing, the Society readily own, they know none; every Robber is a Thief, and every Thief a Robber; and for this Gentleman's Nice Distinction, we understand it not.

As to the Beau's Barber's being able to live without the Highway Trade, the Society believe still, he had never taken it up, if he had not wanted a Fund to maintain him in the Extravagance he liv'd in; but if there is a particular Exception, as all General Rules have, they are contented to be understood in General, with allowance to some particular Cases.

The Difficulty thus remov'd, they see nothing Problematical in their Discourse on that Head, and verily think his Poetical Flight requires much more Explication; if 'tis put in to alude to the Review, as a meer *Mully of Mountown*, a heap of Words without Signification, we alledge the Exposition, and require him to make his as clear, or that the Reference will not be just; and there he is left to make the Case out himself, if he knows how.

THE best Arts have the most Pretenders, said the Society, when they read of a half-pac'd Mathematician in the following Story.

S I R,
A Half-pac'd Mathematician, not far from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, lately presenting some Company, in which he was, with a Sample of his Ingenuity, asserted as matter of Principle, That 'tis a Dangerous Thing to be Honest. I desire your Opinion of this Doctrine.

Indeed the Society thinks the Gentleman who sent this Letter, has no great Cause to Complain of the advanc'd Notion of the Mathematical Author, since 'tis plain in fact several ways.

1. Honesty is a Case full of Dangerous Envy and Malice; not that the People envy an Honest Man, to have his Honesty themselves, as they do a Rich Man to have his Money; but they Envy a Man the Reputation of his Honesty, the Credit, Good Name, and Respect he meets with, and Envy it being said, he merits more than themselves.

2. The Danger of Poverty attends Honesty, since in that World they say, a Man can never be Rich, if he will be Honest; there are so many hanging about him, Sharping, Biting, and pulling him Limb from Limb.

3. Honesty is in danger of Contempt; for who is more Contemptible than a Poor Man? Let him be never so Honest, his Rags sit on his Back very Awkwardly, and he is slighted by those he ought not to have set with the Dogs of his Flock.

4. Honesty must be a Dangerous thing, because whoever has it, generally goes alone; and a Man that goes alone, is always in danger of being set upon.

IF the Gentleman who sent a Letter, Sign'd M. L. please to write his Story in modest Terms, it may be Answer'd in the next Supplement.

THE Gentleman who sent the Society a very Useful Story, about a Waterman and a Justice, Signed A. B. D. D. is trumblly desired by the Society, to send them some Token, or Particular Assurance, that the Fact is true; they being very desirous to Improve it.

THE Double Wellcome to the Duke of Marlborough, Published this Day, by the Author of the True-born English Man.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Royal Essence for the Hair of the Head and Perriwigs, being the most delicate and charming Perfume in Nature, and the greatest Preserver of Hair in the World, for it keeps that of Perriwigs (a much longer time than usual) in the Curl, and fair Hair from fading or changing colour, makes the Hair of the Head grow thick, strengthens and confirms its Roots, and effectually prevents it from falling off or splitting at the ends, makes the Powder continue in all Hair longer than it possibly will, by the use of any other thing. By its incomparable Odour and Fragrancy it strengthens the Brain, revives the Spirits, quickens the Memory, and makes the Heart chearful, never raises the Vapours in Ladies, &c. being wholly free from (and abundantly more delightful and pleasant than) Musk, Civet, &c. 'Tis indeed an unparalleled fine Scent for the Pocket, and perfumes Handkerchiefs, &c. excellently. To be had only at Mr. Allcrafts, a Toyshop at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill. Sealed up, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

AT the White Swan upon Snow Hill, over-against the Green Dragon Tavern, are made and sold the Newest fashion Flower-Pots for Gardens; Urns, Eagles, and Pine-Apples, to stand upon Posts of Large Gates; also large or small Figures, all made of hard Metal, much more durable than Stone, and cheaper; also Candle Moulds, fit to make Wax or Tallow Candles, from 1 in the Pound, to 20: There is also made Artificial Fountains, that Play Water from 1, 2, or 3 Foot, to 20 or 30 Foot high, 1, 2, 3, or 6 Hours together, without Repeating with the same Water; which Fountains or Engines may be made use of to extinguish Fire 40 or 50 Foot high, with a continued Stream larger, than the Common Fire-Engines.

Just Published,

THE Posthumous Works of Mr. de St. Evremont. Containing Variety of Elegant Essays, Letters, Poems, and other Miscellaneous Pieces, on several Curious Subjects. Vol. III. Printed for Jeffery Wale at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-yard.